

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for bleaching teeth comprising steps of applying a solution containing nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide powder on a surface of teeth, and irradiating the applied part with light to bleach the teeth based on a photocatalytic action thus produced.

2. A method for bleaching teeth as claimed in claim 1, wherein visible light is irradiated as the light.

3. A bleaching agent for teeth comprising a solution containing nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide powder, which is attached to a surface of teeth and irradiated with light to bleach the teeth based on a photocatalytic action thus produced.

4. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, wherein the nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide is a photocatalytic substance having a Ti-O-N structure having a titanium oxide crystalline lattice containing nitrogen and exhibiting a photocatalytic action in a visible light region.

5. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 4, wherein the nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide contains titanium oxide containing no nitrogen on the outer surface thereof.

6. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 4, wherein a surface of the nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide comprises a ceramic carried in an island form, needle form or a mesh form.

7. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 4, wherein a surface of the nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide carries a charge separation substance.

8. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the bleaching agent for teeth contains 0.01 to 5% by weight of the nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide powder.

9. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the nitrogen-deeped titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of 10 to 500 m²/g.

10. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the solution contains water and/or an alcohol as a solvent.

11. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 10, wherein the alcohol is a polyhydric alcohol.

12. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 11, wherein the bleaching agent for teeth further comprises 0.5 to 20% by weight of a thickener.

13. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 12, wherein the bleaching agent for teeth further comprises 1 to 20% by weight of hydrogen peroxide.

14. A bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 13, wherein the bleaching agent for teeth further comprises 2 to 45% by weight of urea peroxide.